

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-22 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 11, 16 and 20 are amended. Claim 9 is canceled. Claim 22 has been added. Applicant requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Claims 4 and 11-17 are objected to for informalities. The Applicant has amended Claims 4 and 11 to cure the informalities in a manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claims 4 and 11-17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 7, 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sabac et al.* Claims 1 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by *Schluter*. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sabac et al.* in view of *Robinson*. Claims 1, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Robinson* in view of *Sabac et al.* The rejections are overcome for the reasons that follow.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 9, 10 and 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of Claim 9, which renders Claim 1 the independent form of Claim 9 and thus, allowable.

Moreover, Applicant has amended Claim 16 into independent form to include the subject matter of all intervening claims, thus Claim 16 is allowable.

Claim 20 has been rewritten into independent form including the subject matter of Claims 1 and 9 and is therefore allowable, since the subject matter of Claim 9 has been deemed to be allowable.

Claims 2-8, 10-15 and 18-19 which depend from Claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 as well as for the novel features which they add.

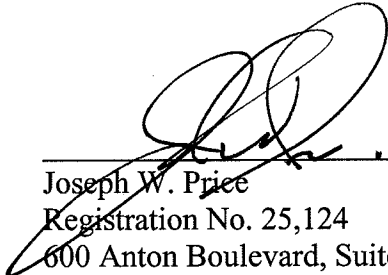
Claim 17 which depends from Claim 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16 as well as for the novel features which it adds.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from Claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 20 as well as for the novel features which they add.

It is believed that the case is now in condition, and an early notification of the same is requested. If there are any questions with regards to the prosecution of this application, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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